

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 INT-05 FEA-01

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01

OPIC-03 /054 W

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R 271436Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7059

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ENRG, EMIN, TECH

SUBJ: TERRADEX URANIUM PROSPECTING TECHNIQUE

1. DR. H. WARD ALTER, PRESIDENT, AND JAMES E. GINGRICH, VICE PRESIDENT (BOTH ALSO SHAREHOLDERS) OF TERRADEX CORP., WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA, CALLED ON DCM AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR FEB. 22 TO INFORM EMBASSY, AND THROUGH IT OTHER INTERESTED USG PERSONNEL, OF TERRADEX ACTIVITIES IN FIELD OF URANIUM PROSPECTING. ALTER EMPHASIZED THIS WAS FIRST SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT BETWEEN TERRADEX AND ANY USG AGENCY.
2. TERRADEX IS NEW COMPANY RECENTLY SPUN OFF FROM GENERAL ELECTRIC TO EXPLOIT GE PATENTS ON REVOLUTIONARY TECHNIQUE FOR LOCATING URANIUM DEPOSITS. GE HAS 40 INTEREST, MEMORIAL DRIVE TRUST IS MINORITY FINANCIAL PARTNER, WITH ALTER AND GINGRICH HOLDING REMAINING SHARES.
3. TERRADEX USES "TRACK ETCH" TECHNIQUE WHICH INVOLVES IMPLANTATION IN TARGET PROSPECTING AREAS OF PLASTIC CUPS WITH BUILT-IN DIELECTRIC FILM THAT IS SENSITIVE TO

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ALPHA RADIATION GIVEN OFF BY RADON GAS. CUPS CAN BE

PLACED IN GROUND BY UNSKILLED WORKERS UNDER SUPERVISION OF COMPETENT SURVEYOR. BY DEVELOPING FILM AFTER PERIOD OF A FEW WEEKS TERRADEX CAN REPUTEDLY IDENTIFY WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF ACCURACY THOSE PORTIONS OF TERRAIN SURVEYED IN WHICH URANIUM CONCENTRATION IS HIGHEST.

4. WHILE TERRADEX HAS THUS FAR CONCENTRATED ON EMPLOYING ITS TECHNIQUE UNDER CONTRACT TO PROSPECTING COMPANIES (INCLUDING SEVERAL MAJOR MULTI-NATIONALS SUCH AS EXXON, RIO TINTO ZINC, PECHINEY, ETC.). IT IS NOW EMBARKING ON SERIES OF JOINT VENTURES WITH SUCH COMPANIES IN ORDER TO REALIZE DIRECT RISK PROFIT FROM THIS TECHNOLOGY. ALTER SAID HIS COMPANY IS NOW, FOR EXAMPLE, NEGOTIATING WITH GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR MAJOR EXPLOITATION PROGRAM, PROBABLY ON JOINT VENTURE BASIS. ALTER MENTIONED THAT WHILE PROCESS IS THUS FAR UNIQUE, IT IS IN FACT SO SIMPLE THAT COUNTRIES WITH REASONABLE TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCE AND NOT ADHERENTS TO INTERNATIONAL PATENT CONVENTIONS (E.G. SOVIET UNION) MAY SOON STUMBLE ON IT AND START DEVELOPING IT.

5. ALTER EXPRESSED STRONG PERSONAL OPINION THAT USG SHOULD CONSIDER IMPOSING EXPORT CONTROLS ON DOMESTIC URANIUM SIMILAR TO THOSE RECENTLY PUT INTO EFFECT BY CANADIANS, SINCE IN HIS VIEW RACE FOR COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE URANIUM IS NOW REACHING FEVER PITCH. HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY OF TERRADEX CUSTOMERS PROSPECTING IN US ARE FOREIGN FIRMS AND THAT WITH HELP OF TRACK ETCH ARE MAKING SIGNIFICANT DISCOVERIES.

6. ALTER SAID TERRADEX IS NOT SEEKING FOREIGN SERVICE ASSISTANCE AT THIS JUNCTURE. FOREGOING IS REPORTED SOLELY FOR BACKGROUND OF ADDRESSEES.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** URANIUM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TERRADEX URANIUM PROSPECTING TECHNIQUE  
**TAGS:** BEXP, ENRG, EMIN, TECH, TERRADEX, (ALTER, H WARD), (GINGRICH, JAMES E)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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